

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 3, after the title, please insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, as follows:

The invention relates to a device for applying a ventrally or dorsally directed translatory force onto a lower leg in the area of a knee joint for treatment or follow-up treatment of knee instability, in particular cruciate ligament instability, ~~as set forth in the preamble of claim 1.~~

Page 2, line 34, please insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4, as follows:

According to the invention, this object is achieved by the ~~features of claim 1.~~
~~Advantageous embodiments of the invention are described in the subsequent claims described herein.~~

Page 5, line 22, please insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 6, line 30, please insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 29, as follows:

Figures 2a to 2c show a thigh bar 6 which can be secured on the thigh 1 by means of a cuff 7. The cuff 7 is expediently made up of a half-shell which is placed on the front of the thigh and which can be fixed on the thigh 1 by means of straps 8 which are guided ~~round around~~ the back of the thigh and have velcro-type fasteners. In the distal end area of the thigh bar 6, located

laterally alongside the knee joint, a shorter bar arm 9 and a longer bar arm 10 extending in the direction of the lower leg 3 are mounted so as to be able to swivel.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 20, as follows:

As can be seen from Figures 2a to 2c, the distal end of the shorter bar arm 9 is coupled to a bolt 15 which protrudes laterally outward from the fixation device 12 in the end area of ~~said the~~ fixation device 12 close to the knee. For this purpose, the shorter bar arm 9 has an oblong hole 16 into which the bolt 15 engages. The bar arm 9 is thus guided in a longitudinally displaceable manner on the bolt 15 by means of this oblong hole 16.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 37, as follows:

As will be seen from Figures 3 and 4, a spring in the form of a flat coil spring 29 is arranged inside the spring housing 19, this spring being used to generate a pretensioning force acting between the shorter bar arm 9 and the longer bar arm 10. As will be explained in more detail below, this flat coil spring 29 cooperates with a toothed wheel gear which is likewise arranged inside the spring housing 19 and which is made up of a central toothed wheel 30 and of a peripheral driving toothed wheel 31 of smaller diameter meshing with ~~said the~~ toothed wheel 30. The central toothed wheel 30, which is shown in more detail in Figures 6a and 6b, has a central, axial protrusion 32 which, along most of its length, i.e. in the area 33, has a square cross section on the outside. The end area 34 of the protrusion 32 is, by contrast, cylindrical on the outside and serves as a rotation bearing for the longer bar arm 10 (see Figure 10). The bar arm 10, which extends through a recess in the circumferential wall of the spring housing 19, is thus able to swivel about the protrusion 32.